

Bass River Elementary School
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2021
(Virtual)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mrs. Bitzberger, Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt
ABSENT: 0
Others Present: Mr. Nicholas Brown, Business Administrator, (arrived late to meeting due to conflicting schedules)
Mr. Jonathan Yates, Board Secretary
Mr. Paul Kalac, Board Solicitor

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mr. Schmidt and carried by voice vote to approve the Board resolution to move to Executive Session.

Time: 6:34 pm

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education meet in closed session to discuss matters as listed below. Item(s) so discussed will be disclosed to the public providing it does not violate New Jersey statutes and regulations regarding disclosure of information affecting this matter.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by voice vote to approve adjournment of Executive Session.

Time: 6:54 pm

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

4. RECOGNITION

“This is to advise those present at this meeting of the Board of Education of the Bass River School District, in the County of Burlington, that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act. The notice has been posted in the Board of Education Office. The notice was also mailed to the Press of Atlantic City and filed with the Municipal Clerk of Bass River Township.”

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Heinrichs, seconded by Mr. Foder and carried by voice vote approve the agenda as presented.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by voice vote to approve the following minutes:

- a. January 5, 2021 - [Reorganization Meeting](#)
- b. January 5, 2021 - [Executive Meeting](#)

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

8. ELECTION RESULTS

The annual Election of the Bass River Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Carol Bitzberger was elected to a three-year term.

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Bonnie Adams	2022
Carol Bitzberger	2023
Kevin Foder	2022
Jacqueline Heinrichs	2021
Robert Schmidt	2021

9. NEW BOARD MEMBERS OATH

Mr. Yates will administer the oath of office to elected board member; Mrs. Carol Bitzberger. [\(Attachment #1\)](#)

10. CODE OF ETHICS

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by voice vote to approve THAT:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BASS RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION to adopt the following 18A:12-24.1 Code of Ethics for School Board Members as listed a through j:

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- c. I will confine my Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan, political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Bitzberger, Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

11. RESIDENT’S FORUM - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to comment. Each statement made by a participant is limited to three minutes as cited in Policy No. 0167. The public may comment on any item on the agenda at this time. General public comment will occur later in the meeting.

- None at this time.

12. BOARD WORK SESSION

- Budget Committee Volunteer
 - Mrs. Adams asked who would like to volunteer to review information to be presented as we build the upcoming budget. These meetings are held Monday-Friday during normal business hours. Mr. Foder volunteered and Mrs. Bitzberger also volunteered. Mrs. Bitzberger conceded to Mr. Foder.
 - Mr. Yates fielded a question from Mrs. Heinrichs concerning CARES act funds.
- Regionalization Update
 - The Board discussed the difference between merger (does not apply in the context of school districts), send/receive agreement and regionalization.
 - Does regionalization study include the participation from all municipalities and how it will impact each?

- Is a feasibility study similar to a regionalization study, if not, explain? Yes - both studies are meant to study the potential impact of such agreements, but they are different.
- Mrs. Bitzberger asked about the following information:
 - Timeframe on the study?
 - Cost of study?
 - Who is conducting the study?
- Mrs. Heinrichs concedes her position on the Regionalization panel to Mr. Schmidt.
- Mr. Foder asked if Bass River will have representation on the Regional Board of Education. Mr. Yates replied that representation was based on enrollments and he believed at the time that Bass River would have the possibility of one seat on the proposed new Regional BOE.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- Remembering Ms. Hubbs
 - A former teacher passed away and the Board would like to take a moment of silence in recognition of her time and dedication to the students and community of Bass River.
- Public Information Session Date
 - Dr. McCoolley and Mr. Berenato of LEHSD will provide an update on Bass River students attending LEHSD.
 - March 2nd - 7:00 pm works best.
- At Mrs. Adams' request, the Board discussed updating the Board's website.

14. PRESENTATION

- 2019-2020 Audit Presentation by Holman, Frenia, Allison, PC
 - Mr. Brian Waldron from Holman, Frenia, Allison PC provided the Board with a presentation of the 2019-2020 audit results, explaining the result is a clean, unmodified opinion - which is the best opinion the firm can provide. He congratulated the Board for a job well done during a very challenging year.

15. DISPOSAL OF TEXTBOOKS

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by roll call vote to approve the disposal or donation of obsolete textbooks. ([Attachment #2](#))

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Bitzberger, Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

16. EAGLESWOOD TOWNSHIP PURCHASES

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by roll call vote to approve the following purchases as per the attached. ([Attachment #3](#))

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Bitzberger, Mrs. Adams, Mr. Foder, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

17. UPDATED BOARD MEETING DATES

Motion by Mr. Foder, seconded by Mrs. Heinrichs and carried by roll call vote to accept the revised

Discussion

- Mr. Foder asked questions concerning the following:
 - Fire panel.
 - Water testing.
 - Aide in lieu transportation.
 - Treasurer's Report - outstanding checks.
 - Disbursements.
 - Mr. Yates provided clarifying information to Mr. Foder's questions.

19. PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor is now open to members of the public. The Board of Education recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express with each statement made by a participant limited to three minutes as cited in Policy No. 0167.

- None at this time.

20. BOARD FORUM

- Mr. Foder - Welcome Carol to the Board. Welcome everyone that is listening today. He urged the public to wear masks and stay safe.
- Mrs. Heinrichs - Welcome Carol to Board; asked if information session can be put on LEHSD website.
- Mrs. Bitzberger - Asked about an update on sale of school.
- Mrs. Adams - Looking forward to working with Mrs. Bitzberger.
- Mr. Schmidt - Welcomed Carol to Board.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

Mr. Foder requested a second executive session. Mr. Kalac inquired about why we would need a second executive session. Mr. Foder advised he wanted to discuss a petition going around town regarding the send/receive agreement with the LEH BOE; how the information was presented from Mr. Yates and Mr. Brown. Mr. Foder stated that Mr. Yates and Mr. Brown were aware of the petition and that it came from their office. Mr. Yates stated that this was inaccurate information and that no petition was generated from his office that he was aware of. Mr. Kalac advised against entering into a second executive as the Board would be in violation of Sunshine law.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Heinrichs, seconded by Mrs. Bitzberger and carried by voice vote to approve that the Board adjourn the meeting.

adjourn at 8:11 pm

Voice Vote

Ayes: Mrs. Bitzberger, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Heinrichs, Mr. Schmidt

Nays: Mr. Foder

Abstain: 0

MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Meeting - March 16, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick K. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicholas K. Brown
Business Administrator/Board Secretary